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SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

TO THE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY

CONCERNING THE

HISTORICAL LIBRARY OF PETER FORCE, Esq.

WASHINGTON.
1867.

tary maps and plans in manuscript, covering the period of the French war and the war of the Revolution. These are of exceeding interest, and many of them are the work of officers of the British army stationed in America, bearing such inscriptions as the following:

"Plan of the rebel works at West Point," (a pen drawing,) date 1779

"Plan of the Rebel Works on Prospect Hill," also on Winter Hill and Bunker Hill, several distinct maps, date 1775.

The number of these original maps, many of which are unpublished and therefore presumed to be unique, is over 300, covering the whole country, from Canada to the Gulf.

5. Of books known as *incunabula*, or specimens of the earliest development of the art of printing, the collection is large and valuable. It embraces a complete series of imprints by the most distinguished of the early printers, representing every year from 1467 to 1500, besides a large number printed in the following century. The number of books printed in the fifteenth century is 161, and there are over 250 more printed prior to 1600. This collection was formed with special reference to illustrating the progress of the art of printing from its infancy, and is one of the best, if not the best, in America.

6. Autographs and manuscripts. Among the manuscript treasures of this library are 48 folio volumes of historical autographs of great rarity and interest, embracing, especially, a collection of revolutionary letters chiefly military and political, and all of unquestionable authenticity. It need only be added that the National Library now possesses not a solitary specimen of original autographs in the shape of letters or papers of our revolutionary generals and statesmen, to show how greatly this department of the collection would add to the value of that library. The Fore collection embraces two volumes of an original military journal of Major General Greene, covering the years 1781 and 1782; a private journal kept by Arthur Lee while minister to France in 1776-7; thirty or forty orderly books of the Revolution; twelve or more military journals of British officers during the same period; twenty-five manuscript narratives of military expeditions, all unpublished; twelve folio volumes of the papers of Paul Jones while, commanding American cruisers in 1776 to 1778; a volume of records of the Virginia Company from 1621 to 1681 mostly unpublished; two autograph journals of George Washington, one dated 1755, during Braddock's expedition, and one in 1787, at Moun Vernon; besides a multitude of others. There is also an unpublished manuscript of Las Casas, in four folio volumes, entitled "*Historia Apologética de los Indias Occidentales*," and an "*Historia Antiqua de Nueva España*," in three volumes.

The whole number of volumes in manuscript reaches 429; and the